

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008

IN THIS ISSUE:

Lyon County
Champions Celebrate
Red Ribbon Week

Policy Brief:
Fixing National
Drug Control Policy

“Take the HIGH out of
HIGHWAY”
Franklin County Town
Forum

MADD: New Data
Shows Disturbing
Number of Repeat
Drunk Drivers on
America's Roadways

Tanya Dickinson
Branch Manager
Justice/Public Safety

RPC Corner
Linda Woods
Pennyroyal Center

Welcome: Harrison
County Champions



Lyon County Schools Red Ribbon Week Celebration!

By Dave Baxter
Lyon County Champions

Lyon County Schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 27 – 31. The community wide effort involved Lyon County Schools, Lyon County Family Resource Center, Lyon County 4H, Pennyroyal Area Community Services, Pennyroyal Center Regional Prevention Center, Eddyville Police, Lyon County Champions Coalition and KY-ASAP Black Patch Council in planning activities for each day.

Monday – Join The Fight Against Drugs – Camouflage dress was the thing

Tuesday – Team Up Against Drugs – Sports Teams Colors were worn

Wednesday – Drugs Are Hair Raising – Best described as “bad hair day”

Friday – Put a Cap on Drugs – Where wacky hats were in



CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008



Thursday was the most exciting for teachers, students and community as all 378 Lyon County Elementary students dressed in red and paraded through residential and business districts of town chanting "Say No to Drugs". The parade stopped in front of the County Judicial Center where the students released red balloons signifying their ability to "turn loose" from drug use. The students talked in the morning assembly about the significance of

the parade and the importance of saying "NO" when anyone offers them drugs in the future.

"These kids will remember the parade far better than anything we could teach in the classroom" said elementary Principal Diane Still. "It was our goal to involve the community in Red Ribbon Week, because it takes us all to publicly commit to keeping our kids drug free. After all, these are OUR kids".

All the organizations involved had a great time walking and talking with the students. We are already talking about how we can improve on this effort next year.

Policy Brief: Fixing National Drug Control Policy

Reprint from Join Together

This policy brief, released by The Research and Policy Analysis Group of Carnevale Associates, LLC, analyzes national drug control policy and suggests ways the incoming administration can improve upon the current approach.

Drug use survey data as well as public opinion reflect a lack of progress on both demand and supply reduction fronts. Drug use initiation continues unabated, poppy and coca cultivation levels are at near record levels, and three out of every four Americans think that the nation is losing its war on drugs.

This Policy brief offers the next administration a "back to basics approach" including three essential principles for any effective national drug policy: (1) the adoption of policies grounded in research; (2) the development of a budget that meaningfully supports these policies; and (3) the maintenance of a performance measurement system that ensures accountability.

To read the complete report, click on the link to the PDF:

<http://www.carnevaleassociates.com/Fixing%20drug%20policy.pdf>

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008

Take the HIGH out of HIGHWAY

The Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free Franklin County Hosts a Town Hall Meeting

By Jessica Heun Moore

On November 17, 2008, the Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free Franklin County hosted a town hall meeting focusing on marijuana use in Franklin County. For the past fiscal year, the coalition worked on this initiative through funding provided by the SPF-SIG marijuana mini grant awarded to them. The coalition received a second round of funding and continues to work on reducing not only the number of youth who use marijuana, but also to reduce the number of youth who drive impaired after using marijuana, a problem discovered by the coalition after completing numerous youth focus groups. Through their campaign slogan, "Take the High out of Highway," the coalition has raised awareness of the issue through billboards, signage, public service announcements, and many more activities.

The town hall meeting served as a place for the coalition to share their findings from this project and to rally support from the local community and its leaders. The coalition chair, Angela Criswell, kicked off the event by citing local statistics from the 2006 KIP data and from the community survey and focus groups completed by the coalition. Justice and Public Safety Secretary J. Michael Brown reiterated Angela Criswell's comments, additionally stating he wanted to drive down the demand for marijuana through education and intervention, stating

He discussed the fact that parents are the greatest single influence in children's lives and that they can be the first line of defense in preventing drug use.

that the effects of experimenting with drugs can later hinder youth in their lives. Following Secretary Brown's comments, Mr. Jack Claypoole, administrator for Drug Free Communities out of the Executive Office of the President of the United States and Office of National Drug Control Policy, took center stage as the keynote speaker of the evening. Mr. Claypoole discussed a grant, Drug Free Communities, which provides approximately \$125,000 to coalitions for up to 10 years, by allowing local communities to solve their drug problems in their own way. He discussed the fact that parents are the greatest single influence in children's lives and that they can be the first line of defense in preventing drug use. *Continued next page*



Jack Claypool, Administrator for Drug Free Communities with Rob Good, Christy Halloran and Angela Criswell, Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free Franklin County.

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008

Additionally, Mr. Claypoole facilitated a breakfast meeting with key community leaders to discuss the possibility of applying for the Drug Free Communities grant in the near future. The breakfast attempted to bring all key players necessary to apply for the grant to the table to discuss drug problems within Franklin County.

This town hall event and subsequent breakfast meeting not only brought key leaders up to date on the drug issues in Franklin County, namely marijuana, but it also facilitated discussions for future projects and activities on which the coalition could work. By opening these lines of communication, the coalition was able to gain support and ideas to further enhance their "Take the High out of Highway" campaign to reduce youth driving impaired from marijuana. For more information, please contact the facilitator of this grant initiative, Christy Halloran, at cshalloran@fewpb.net or visit the coalition website at www.drugfreefranklin.com.



Higher Taxes, More Regulation on Horizon for Tobacco Industry

Reprint from Join Together
November 24, 2008

News Summary The U.S. tobacco industry is likely to be hit with higher taxes and more regulation as its political influence wanes and a Democratic president takes office, [Dow Jones](#) reported Nov. 14.

In 2009 Congress is expected to raise federal tobacco taxes to pay for expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) -- previously vetoed by President Bush -- and pass a law giving the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulatory power over tobacco products.

"Both the FDA bill and the SCHIP funded by tobacco tax have demonstrated bipartisan support and therefore present the new Congress and the new president with the opportunity for early victories," said Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. "This president and this Congress is likely to be more supportive to efforts to reduce tobacco use than any in history."

"It's a more adversarial environment for tobacco companies," said industry analyst Christopher Growe, who predicts that the expected SCHIP tax could raise the price of a pack of cigarettes 15 percent and result in a 5-10 percent decline in cigarette sales. A spokesperson for Reynolds American said the new taxes could result in higher illegal sales of cigarettes, while a spokesperson for Altria -- parent company of Philip Morris -- said the firm would continue to oppose increases in federal tobacco taxes.

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008

MADD: New Data Shows Disturbing Number of Repeat Drunk Drivers on America's Roadways

December 2, 2008
Announcement

[MADD National Office](#)

511 E. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Dallas—Nationally, an estimated two million drunk drivers with three or more convictions, including 400,000 drunk drivers with five or more convictions will share our roadways this holiday season. These figures are based on data reported to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) by 20 states and the District of Columbia and released by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). The [Repeat Offense Data by State](#), also includes data for three additional states provided by other sources.

MADD also released its [annual state progress report](#), which provides each state's drunk driving fatality statistics and available repeat offender data, and highlights efforts on ignition interlock laws as well as sobriety checkpoints.

"These staggering statistics of repeat drunk driving offenders show that law enforcement is doing its job by finding and arresting drunk drivers. Unfortunately, the criminal justice systems' catch and release approach to drunk driving remains a huge threat to public safety," said Laura Dean-Mooney, national president of MADD, whose husband, Mike Dean, was killed by a drunk driver just before Thanksgiving in 1991. "MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving calls for action in all 50 states to stop repeat offenses through comprehensive interlock legislation."

"To keep motorists safe this holiday season we need to get drunk drivers off the roads and stop them from repeating their crimes," said NHTSA Acting Administrator David Kelly. "Through strong enforcement efforts and increased use of alcohol ignition interlock systems, we can stop repeat offenders from getting back behind the wheel." The National Transportation Safety Board also called on states for stronger action on drunk driving.

The holiday season is a particularly deadly time on America's roadways. In 2007, nearly 1,500 people were killed in crashes involving a drunk driver from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. During the holidays, MADD is ramping up its call for every state to introduce interlock laws that cover all convicted drunk drivers, including those facing their first convictions—as Washington State did in 2007.

Interlocks have been proven highly effective at reducing recidivism," said Governor Chris Gregoire of Washington State. "It is vital that we all work together to approve interlocks in every state to help save lives and prevent injuries from this violent and deadly crime." continued next page.

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008

Eight states including Washington State, New Mexico and Arizona have already approved interlocks for first-time convicted drunk drivers. MADD is launching an effort to introduce bills requiring ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk driving offenders in the remaining 42 states.

“New Mexico was the first state in the nation to mandate ignition interlocks for all convicted offenders. Along with mandatory ignition interlocks, we increased enforcement, public awareness and treatment. Since 2005 we’ve seen a 20 percent reduction in alcohol-involved fatalities; I am confident our increased efforts along with the mandatory interlock legislation played a large role in reducing fatalities in New Mexico,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “Based on New Mexico data, we estimate that in 2006 ignition interlocks prevented some 63,000 alcohol-involved driving events.”

“Arizona has taken a strong stand against drunk driving,” Governor Janet Napolitano said. “We have some of the strongest laws in the nation, including a mandatory one-year interlock on cars for the first offense. It is important we take these steps to ensure the safety of Arizonans.”

The [Robi family](#) can’t understand how the law can ignore repeat drunk driving convictions. Ironically, after years of enforcing the law as officers in the Los Angeles Police Department, they’ve also learned firsthand about multiple convictions. An April 27, 2007 drunk driving crash made them victims/survivors of a four-time repeat drunk driving offender, who injured daughter Jennifer, 12, and her mother, Kath.

“We need stronger laws,” says Kath Robi. “The hammer needs to fall on these people. This is outrageous!” Jennifer has been in a cast from her hip to her chest for the past 18 months, to support her spinal injury. Kath, a retired LAPD officer, underwent several surgeries, memory loss and the inability to walk or drive for months.

An [alcohol ignition interlock](#) is a breath test device linked to a vehicle’s ignition system. When a convicted drunk driver starts their vehicle, he or she must first blow into the device. The vehicle will not start if the driver is violating probation by having alcohol in his/her system. If interlocks were required for all convicted drunk drivers in the United States, thousands of lives could be saved each year.

The [Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving](#) continues to draw support from a vast coalition, including the Department of Transportation, NHTSA, the Governors Highway Safety Association, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Nationwide Insurance and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

“We are working toward the day when drunk driving is remembered as the modern day equivalent of polio—when there is not a single victim of drunk driving needing our help and support,” Dean-Mooney said. “By using straightforward, proven methods, we believe we can reach this goal.”

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008



Welcome to Grants Management Branch!

For administrative purposes, the Champions program recently transferred to the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's **Grants Management Branch (GMB)**. GMB serves as the State Agency Administrator for many federal and state grants, receiving approximately \$15-18 million on an annual basis from various sources. These funds are distributed to state and local criminal justice agencies and not-for-profit service providers through programs such as Justice Assistance Grants (JAG), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and now, **Champions for a Drug Free Kentucky**. While most of our grants are focused on specific criminal justice activities, we have always had a strong interest in prevention programs and funded them whenever possible. Adding Champions Coalitions and Regional Prevention Centers to our list of grant partners has expanded our horizons, and we hope to return the favor by bringing you expanded access to information, expertise, and other resources.

Our formal mission statement states that GMB will “administer state and federal funds awarded by the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet in a fair and consistent manner by providing leadership through the development, promotion and coordination of programs designed to create safer communities and improved criminal justice systems for all citizens throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.” That’s quite a mouthful in bureaucrat-speak to say that our job is to get resources out to programs in the field to deliver vital services that might not be available otherwise. We are conscious of the need for accountability in all that we do, and we work closely with grantees to insure delivery of high quality services that meet the needs of funders, the Commonwealth, and local communities. Champions is an excellent addition to this group of programs, as it would not exist without the efforts of hundreds of local volunteers concerned about improving the quality of life in their communities.

We may do some things a little differently than in the past, and we’re always working to improve our services. Our new electronic grants management system was a big part of that, and we always appreciate your patience during this transition and your ideas for improvement. And, while Sandy Harston will continue her excellent work as the Champions Program Manager, please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions about our grant programs, or if I can assist you in any way. You can always reach me at 502/564-3251 or tanya.dickinson@ky.gov. Thanks for joining us, we’re glad to have you all on board!

Tanya L. Dickinson

Grants Management Branch Manager

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008

RPC Corner
RPC Corner

Pennyroyal Regional Prevention Center

Report on

Methamphetamine Curriculum Development

By: Linda Woods



In September of 2007, a meeting was held with the Methamphetamine SPF SIG sites of Ohio and Muhlenberg Counties. The feasibility of developing a Methamphetamine prevention curriculum was discussed. A Meth Task Force was developed. Members include Gary Hall, Dianne McFarling, Buddy Shrewsbury, Sheila Barnard, Paula Brown and Linda Woods. The task force took this idea to their two coalitions Ohio County Alliance for Methamphetamine (O CAMP) and Muhlenberg County Alliance for Methamphetamine (M CAMP) and they decided to accept this challenge.

In February, 2008, Donna Vincent was hired as the Methamphetamine Curriculum Developer. Donna is a Language Arts Specialist for the Muhlenberg County Schools. She wrote **Building the Foundation the Write Way**, which was mailed to every elementary school in Kentucky and is used by Western Kentucky University as a textbook in four language arts classes. She also has other published materials.

The Methamphetamine curriculum is being developed to educate students about the dangers of meth use. The curriculum will correlate with Kentucky's Core Content with components being used in writing, reading, practical living, science, and on demand writing. This layering of instruction will facilitate understanding.

This curriculum will be piloted in Ohio and Muhlenberg County Schools in the spring. It will be in addition to the evidence-based curriculum currently being used. We are extremely proud of this project. Thanks to all who are making this possible!

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008

Champions for a Drug Free Harrison County

By Karen Adams

The CHAMPIONS COALITION was newly resurrected in Harrison County after a drug summit held in late fall of 2007. At that time, out of growing concern for the effects on children and teens, Judge-Executive Alex Barnett brought the community together to discuss the severity of the drug problem in the county.

In January of 2008, several of these concerned citizens joined Judge Barnett in forming the Harrison County CHAMPIONS group. In less than one year, the coalition has moved at lightning speed to educate the community about both the scope of the problem and its harmful consequences.

Harrison County CHAMPIONS has held two Town Hall meetings on underage drinking and one on the state KASPER tracking system. In October, the first annual Fall Cookoff was held and was very successful. Those who prepared barbecue and other foods were kind enough to donate their products for the benefit of CHAMPIONS. Several donated items were also auctioned. The CHAMPIONS message has been shared through public youth activities, community health fairs and industry seminars. Having developed a recognizable logo, citizens can now show their support via shirts, lapel buttons and window decals.



*Harrison County Judge/Executive
Alan Barnett*

Members of CHAMPIONS have developed a PowerPoint presentation for various civic and service groups to educate the community and to present a cohesive plan of action aimed at preventing young people from introducing themselves to drugs and alcohol. As well, parents are being informed and empowered to recognize the importance of monitoring their children's behaviors and friends. The entire community is being made aware that substance abuse does not exempt any individual from its effects. Indeed, the motto, "Knowledge is Power", has arisen with new meaning in the battle against drugs and alcohol.

While CHAMPIONS maintains its focus on the needs of youth from 12-18, they believe that a comprehensive approach to substance abuse prevention education and treatment must be utilized for the optimal possibility of success and in improved quality of life for all citizens. With the assistance of community specific data from local needs assessments, a University of Kentucky study of the adult perception of risk factors and local law enforcement statistics, the coalition has implemented a strategic plan. (continued next page)

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

3RD/4TH QUARTER 2008

In 2009, the coalition will host a Town Hall meeting in the spring prior to prom night and again in the fall during National Recovery Month. Also, training will begin and a county-wide Neighborhood Watch program will be launched. Permanent markers will be erected at each of the neighborhood parks within the county limits which will bear the CHAMPIONS message of support for zero tolerance. At each road entering the county, the CHAMPIONS logo will be visible on newly erected welcome signs showing that the community actively resists illegal drug activity.

The membership of Harrison County CHAMPIONS accepts that substance abuse will not be eliminated in total, but by becoming more aware and better educated, the community is getting out the word that its children and young people are not for sale to drug dealers. In much the same way as an offensive line moves down the football field, the goals of decreased substance abuse, a restored sense of community pride and evidence of a better quality of life will score a touchdown for the folks of Harrison County.

Methadone OD Deaths Up 390 Percent, Report Finds

[National Drug Intelligence Center Report](#)

Deaths from overdoses on methadone rose 390 percent between 1999 and 2004, and the trend is continuing, according to a new report from the National Drug Intelligence Center.

USA Today reported December 6 that the report attributes the trend mostly to increased use of methadone as a painkiller; the drug is seen as a cheaper alternative to drugs like OxyContin, which also have more potential for abuse and diversion. Doctors prescribed 715 percent more methadone in 2006 than they had in 2001.

The methadone overdose rate was highest among those ages 15 to 24; the rate was lower than that for other narcotic painkillers but is rising faster.

The larger story is the widespread abuse of prescription painkillers in America,” said Tom Riley of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.” “The abuse and misuse of prescription drugs is far more dangerous and far more widespread than most Americans realize.”

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

Champions Chatter is a publication of Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky and the Grants Management Branch, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. The purpose of *Champions Chatter* is to disseminate and share information regarding the work of our many volunteers and Regional Prevention Center staff in Kentucky communities.

The mission of Champions is “to promote the prevention of the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and promote the reduction of violence in Kentucky schools and communities.”

Sandra Harston is the statewide coordinator for Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky. To submit articles for *Champions Chatter* or for more information regarding Champions contact her at:

SandraK.Harston@ky.gov

502-564-8294

<http://www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb/>

**“Faith is taking the first step, even when
you don’t see the whole staircase.”**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
U.S. Civil Rights Leader
and Clergyman (1929 – 1968)**